

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /068 W
----- 122222

R 061445Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADTR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9938

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0027

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES, ASEC

SUBJECT: LEADING SALVADORAN BUSINESSMAN KIDNAPPED

REF: SAN SALVADOR 5317

1. BENJAMIN SOL MILLETU KIDNAPPED ON DECEMBER 24, 1975, WAS RELEASED EARLY IN THE A.M. OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 1976. HE HAD BEEN BLINDFOLDED UP TO THE LAST AND SAID HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY HIS CAPTORS NOR THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD BEEN HELD. HE WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING STATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN MISTREATED AND THAT HIS CAPTORS HAD GIVEN HIM MEDICAL ATTENTION.

2. AS YET NEITHER THE GOES NOR THE FAMILY HAS ISSUED A FORMAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE MATTER. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ANY RANSOM PAYMENT, THE CHANCES ARE THAT SOL MILLET'S RELEASE WAS TRIGGERED BY A SUBSTANTIAL SETTLEMENT PAID PRIVATELY BY THE FAMILY TO THE KIDNAPPERS. DUE TO THE SECRECY AROUND THE CASE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT THE PRIMARY MOTIVE WAS FINANCIAL OR POLITICAL.

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3. COMMENT - IF THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THIS KIDNAPPING AND THE

MID-1975 ONE OF "CHICO" DE SOLA HOLDS, THERE WILL BE NO LIFTING OF SECRECY RE THE DETAILS OF THE KIDNAPPING EVEN NOW AFTER RELEASE. IF, AS IS GENERALLY SUPPOSED, A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY CHANGED HANDS AND THE KIDNAPPERS ARE NOT CAPTURED, WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE SIMILAR SCENARIOS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. SUCH AN ACT, WHATEVER ITS PERPETRATORS' MOTIVE, DOES HAVE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. THE GOES IS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED THAT IT APPEARS INCAPABLE OF PREVENTING SUCH OCCURRENCES OR SOLVING THEM ONCE THEY OCCUR. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO NOT CAST IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT WHEN THE VICTIM AND HIS FAMILY GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF NON COOPERATION WITH THE SECURITY SERVICES BOTH DURING AND AFTER TTM ACT. ACCORDING TO THE DAO, THE GOES IS ALSO UPSET IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE BECAUSE SOL MILLET HAD BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL WARNINGS BY THE SECURITY SERVICES THAT HE WAS TARGETTED, AND THAT HE CHOSE TO IGNORE ITS ADVICE TO BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT IN HIS DAILY ROUTINE. THE GOES IS THUS FRUSTRATED OVER THE APPEARANCE THAT IT CAN DO NOTHING TO PREVENT SUCH ACTS WHEN, IN FACT, IT HAD OFFERED ADVICE BEFORE THE KIDNAPPING WHICH HAD BEEN IGNORED. CAMPBELL

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